

stones bearing areas and for setting up of Gem-stone Testing Laboratory for identification, testing and evaluation of different types of precious and semi-precious stones.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

#### **TV Coverage of North-Eastern States**

5183. **SHRI KAMLA MISHRA**  
**MADHUKAR:**  
**SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA**  
**WASNIK:**  
**SHRI VIJAY KUMAR**  
**YADAV:**

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inadequate coverage and untimely telecast of English programmes over Doordarshan in the North-Eastern States, particularly in Mizoram and Nagaland,

(b) whether the programmes telecast from Bangladesh are viewed more than Doordarshan programmes by the people of these states; and

(c) the measures the Government propose to take for increasing the coverage and to telecast better programmes.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) TV service is at present available to an estimated 79% population of North-Eastern region including those living in fringe service areas where elevated antennae and boosters are required for obtaining satisfactory reception. Doordarshan telecast a number of English programmes on various subjects from morning to late evening which are well received in all parts of North-eastern states.

(b) No specific survey has been undertaken to find out the extent of viewing of Doordarshan programmes, vis-a-vis

Bangladesh TV programmes in the North-Eastern States including the tribal states of Mizoram and Nagaland. However, a recent sample survey done in Guwahati of Assam reveals that more than 75% of TV viewers watch National programmes of Doordarshan beamed from 8.40 PM onwards.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to extent TV coverage to the uncovered parts of the country in a phased manner depending upon availability of resources and to present quality programmes to the viewers. Besides 11 TV transmitter projects are presently under various stages of implementation in the North-Eastern States aimed at increasing Doordarshan's coverage in the region.

#### **Assistance for Setting up Information Centres and Theatres**

5184. **SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA:**  
 Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated as special assistance for setting up information centres and theatres in the States during the last three years;

(b) the details of schemes and the amount provided for the setting up of those centres in Rajasthan during the said period;

(c) whether any amount was allocated to Tonk district for the construction of information centre in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) No amount was allocated as special assistance for setting up of Information centres and theatres in the States. However, National Films Development Corporation (NFDC), a public sector undertaking in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting under a scheme for financing Cinema theatres all over the country, earmarked following amounts for theatre construction.